

**2110 Centre for Gender Advocacy**  
Minutes of Annual General Meeting  
April 30, 2012

18:00-21:00

1500 de Maisonneuve O., Suite 404

**Facilitator:** Roddy Doucet

**Minutes:** Alisha Mascarenhas

**Introduction** by Roddy Doucet

Roddy welcomes everyone to the AGM.

Approval of Agenda. Adopted Unanimously.

Approval of last year's 2011 AGM Minutes. Approved unanimously.

**Board Report for 2011-2012**

*Presented by Board member, Jayna Patel*

The last year has been a positive one during which the 2110 Centre for Gender Advocacy (CGA) expanded considerably and was very active. We collaborated with many different organizations. A number of improvements were made by the board, the staff, and the Centre's volunteers who worked well together.

***Board members***

Last April, Michaela Manson, Rosario Gallardo, Katie Earle, Hania Souleiman, Leelee David, Candice Cascanette, Jayna Patel, Courtney Kirby, Wendy Heitmann and Annette Kassaye-MacDonald were elected to be on the Board of Directors.

During the year Michaela, Katie, Annette, Leelee, Candice, and Courtney resigned. In January, Lena Carla Palacios and Hannah Besseau were appointed to the Board.

***Activity***

The Centre organized a number of events and activities. Some of these events were the following:

1. Another Word for Gender: an intro to feminist action and organizing – an event series that was held at the beginning of the academic year.

2. A lecture and training series that was part of the Peer Support & Advocacy (PSA) programming, which took place during the month of October.
3. The Blueprint Project – a radio project that was organized with CKUT to raise awareness on gendered violence, which included 12 workshops which ran from October to April.
4. Dragon Root Radio – a permanent and regular radio show broadcast on CKUT focusing on gender

### ***Sexual Assault Centre Campaign***

The CGA introduced the Sexual Assault Centre Campaign this year. The focus of this campaign has been the need for a student run sexual assault centre on campus to serve the students and other members of the University, as well as providing popular education on sexual assault. It has been a very visible campaign and has a lot of support. We have made connections with other organizations including the Sexual Assault Centre of the McGill Student Society (SACOMSS). We've also received grant funding from the Campus Committee for Student Life (CCSL) and the Sustainability Action Fund (SAF).

### ***Missing Justice Campaign***

Missing Justice has had a very active year. In October, Andrea Smith was invited to speak at an event preceding the October 4<sup>th</sup> Sisters in Spirit March. Additionally, the campaign has had a number of teach-ins throughout the year. 600 people attended the annual February 14<sup>th</sup> Memorial March for Missing and Murdered Women. Missing Justice also organized a panel for Israeli Apartheid Week. The group also received grant funding from CCSL.

### ***Resource library***

New materials were acquired for the library through purchases and donations. Additionally, an improved organizational system was implemented by one of our volunteers, Katie Brothers and continues to be fine-tuned by volunteer Katharine Hall.

### ***Facilities***

Both our locations were improved. New computers were purchased for volunteers to use. Free internet access is also available for members to use.

The 2110 Mackay location was reorganized to create an improved space for staff to work in and for members to use. One of our volunteers, Tracy Rothwell, redecorated the peer support room.

A photocopier/printer was purchased that is available for members and other groups to use. Furthermore, we launched a new and updated website.

### ***Labour***

The Board and Staff worked together to revise and improve the Employee Policy. The staff contracts and job descriptions were also reviewed and improved to better reflect the work of the CGA. The staff contracts were renewed.

### ***Policy***

During the year the Board worked on a number of policies. These include:

1. Board Process Policy
2. Space Use Policy
3. Action Group Policy

### ***Conflict Resolution & Complaints Committee***

The Conflict Resolutions & Complaints Committee was retired in order to replace it with an alternative policy that would better meet the needs of the organization. Currently, there is a draft version of the new policy, which is still being worked on.

### ***Discretionary Funding***

Discretionary funding was approved and granted to:

- Tadamon for bringing in Shadia Mansour Palestinian hip hop artist
- Study in Action by Quebec Public Interest Research Group (QPIRG)
- Filipino Women's Organization in Quebec (PINAY) for publication of "Know Your Rights" pamphlets
- Alessandra and Moe Clark for the Rebelles gathering in Winnipeg
- Aboriginal Day Celebration organized by Intertribal Youth Centre (and Missing Justice is involved)
- Odaya Drumming Group
- Feeling Safer in Parc-Ex Campaign
- Rad Frosh (QPIRG McGill)
- Rough Diamond Collective
- Canadian Youth Climate Coalition

In November we decided to discontinue the Discretionary Fund in order to focus on expanding the Centre.

## ***Endorsements***

The CGA endorsed the following:

- Day of action Harper Dégage: Beat back the Tory Attack
- Letter to Mr. Peter Wittig in support of Abousfian Abdelrazik
- Au bas de l'échelle and the Immigrant Workers Centre
- Denouncing Conservative government decision for citizenship oath
- Letter of opposition drafted by Concordia faculty and students in opposition to the creation of the Institute of Israel Studies
- Sex work campaign coalition.
- Day of Action Status for All March on May 26<sup>th</sup>

## ***Action groups***

In February the board and staff worked towards implementing and integrating action groups as part of the Centre. A policy and application form were created. Recently, we approved the application of a group called Life after Life which focuses on decriminalization and decarceration.

## ***GSA fee levy campaign***

Our membership also increased this year. In April, Concordia's graduate students voted by a large margin to join the 2110 Centre. 353 students voted in favour while 103 disagreed.

## ***Student strike***

The CGA has been a strong supporter of the student strike against the tuition increases.

## ***Other***

- We received significant media coverage in both the alternative and mainstream press.
- The CGA organized a trip to Ottawa on April 25<sup>th</sup> for those who were interested in participating in the protest against Motion 312 which reopened the abortion debate.

Overall, the Centre has had a successful and vibrant year which could not have been possible without the hard work of both the staff and our volunteers.

## **Staff Reports**

### ***Julie Michaud: Administrative Coordinator***

Julie has been focusing on creating open lines of communication between board and staff. Staff members have started submitting weekly staff reports and logging hours online. She has also been acting as representative for the 2110 Centre for fee levy meetings, managing the co-ordination of policy meetings, and working to get new website up and running. Julie has been involved in the development and organization of the library, as well as banking, monthly financial reports monthly, and establishing detailed monthly cash forecasting with Jayna in order to make wise choices with funds available.

### ***Bianca Mugenyi: Programming & Campaigns Coordinator***

Bianca's work has included the introduction of the podcast series: media production, editing, discussion about gender, organizing workshops on Gendered Violence with CKUT and the development of a mini-film series. Other activities included work on Another Word for Gender and other back to school events to discuss including first open mic. event. A major event was a presentation with Andrea Smith as keynote speaker about First Nations struggles, violence against women and land issues. Bianca was also worked on the Sexual Assault Centre Campaign, including awareness campaigning, film screenings, creation of a zine, panel discussions, a mentor talk and workshops. Resolutions were made with larger student bodies for funding and space for a centre and improved policies. Policy wing has been active developing policies and doing research.

Missing Justice has been very active, with some major events including a vision (developing a 5-year plan and goals), Sisters in Spirit March and Vigil on February 14<sup>th</sup>. There has been an increase in mainstream media attention as well as community calls for solidarity among many other community projects.

International gender-focused solidarity work included participation as an organizer on forums, Israeli Apartheid Week Coalition, outreach, as well as a panel about systemic violence against women. Reproductive Justice has broadened to address fertility awareness and birth empowerment, and has welcomed new intern Robyn Martin. The tentatively named Reproductive Justice League has also been formed! Action groups have worked on events such as recent HOWL and Cinema Politica events, as well as working in cooperation with groups like Women in Cities, CSA, South Asian Women's Center, Native Friendship Centre.

### ***Gabrielle Bouchard: Peer Support & Advocacy (PSA) Coordinator***

Gabrielle explained that the Peer Support & Advocacy program primarily addresses trans\* issues, anti-oppression and active listening. Services include: peer support, Trigger Squad, (which has volunteers offer support at events), and active support during the student strike. Awareness of the fact that we offer affordable binders seems to be growing and this

is drawing in more francophones to the Centre. Gabrielle has also been working on the Dam It Project, which advocates the availability of dental dams.

PSA has been active in the re-building of a peer support team, with a thorough training of 25 new volunteers. Their meeting room has been renovated and re-decorated. A large grant was proposed for suicide intervention training, and was refused, but will try again!

There has been a focus on working within the community -- re-establishing links with groups by inviting facilitation of workshops by community organizations such as Project 10 (P10), Action santé travesti(e)s et transsexuel(le)s du Québec (ASTT(e)Q) and Conseil Québécois des gais et lesbiennes (CQGL). Gabrielle has also been facilitating and chairing some general assemblies during the strike with the feminist and non-hierarchical approach mandated by 2110 Centre.

Gabrielle has also been participating in a working group to fight homophobia as part of a 5-year government plan, and was successful in having a definition for transphobia included in government documentation.

The name of common usage campaign has made Concordia the first university where Trans\* people may use their preferred name on all university documents and systems (roll call, ID card) starting in September.

### ***Maya Rolbin-Ghanie: Publicity & Promotions Coordinator***

This is the first year that centre has had this position filled. Promotion and publicity of events have included PSA events (training, workshops, lectures series), campaign activities for: the Sexual Assault Centre Campaign, Missing Justice, Another Word for Gender, and the BluePrint Radio Project. There have also been numerous speaking events marches, and workshops. Other promotional work has included creating posters, flyers, info sheets, banners, press releases, media advisories, finding translators, speakers, doing media call-backs, media workshops, website development, email and social media, creating a listserv and volunteer database, personal letters to groups and individuals, and tabling at relevant events.

The 2110 Centre has more media coverage than ever before this year, including mainstream. Official promotions meetings have presently been stalled but will be re-established in coming months.

Long-term projects in the coming year will include the creation of a promotions guide, a media contact list for gender related social justice work, and the development of a newsletter.

Highlights of this year include the Dragonroot radio show, the winning of the grad student fee levy campaign, which reached an exceptionally wide range of students. There has been an intentional shift towards more personal event notification (snail mail hand-written

invitations etc) rather than blasting out to everyone, and this has paid off with larger than ever turn out for the February 14<sup>th</sup> Memorial March.

## **Financial Report**

*Presented by Administrative Coordinator, Julie Michaud*

Notice to Reader for the year ended August 31, 2011

*Notable:*

- Contract expenses to create Maya's position and intended Sexual Assault Centre Coordinator position.
- Legal fees and late payments is high because in previous year former coordinator miscalculated payroll surcharges
- Most revenue comes from student fee levies, which goes into an internal Concordia account

Interim Balance Sheet as at March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012, unaudited

Interim Income Statement for the year ended August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012, unaudited

## **Question Period**

Q. Question regarding absence of Statement of Changes in Net Equity

A. Julie agreed that a statement can be posted on the website in the next 30 days (update: the Notice to Reader was re-done and is available on the website)

Q. Why must we wait two years to re-apply for suicide intervention project?

A. Gabrielle answered that the grant is for a 2 year project, so the application period is now closed for two years.

Q. What is happening with the replacement for Conflict Resolutions and Complaints Committee (CRCC)? Can we access the current policy and have more information on what this replacement will be?

A. Julie answered that the policy is not yet on the website because it is still in progress. Committees are open to participation from members, and a Google doc will be created to be made available to interested members. Bianca also answered that an Grievance Committee is being looked into.

Q. Do other organizations use same auditing format?

A. Full audit is expensive. A Notice to Reader is satisfactory and used by many other organizations.

Q. What about the space use policy?

A. Draft is near completion. The incoming board will be looking at this very soon.

## **Election of the Board of Directors**

*Chief Electoral Officer: Skylar Goldman*

explanation that the Board can be composed of 3-10 Board members, duties outlined

## **Nomination of Candidates**

- Jayna Patel nominated 1<sup>st</sup> by Steven, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Julie, 3<sup>rd</sup> by Lena
- Wendy Heitmann nominated by Jayna, Gabrielle, Lena
- Portia Larlee nominated by Lena, Karen, Bianca, Caitlin
- Caitlin O'Neill nominated by Maya, Lena, Emma
- Lena Carla Palacios nominated by Rosario, Jayna, Gabrielle
- Dan Parker nominated by Maya, Lena, Rosario
- Emma Pietrangelo nominated by Gabrielle, Michael, Caitlin
- Hania Souleiman nominated by Lena, Karen, Portia
- Keren Tang nominated by Portia, Jayna, Lena
- Morgan Pudwell nominated by Wendy, Gabrielle, Louisa
- Mike Lumsden nominated by Lena, Emma, Gabrielle

Candidates introduce themselves.

Morgan and Hania not present, biographies are read by Roddy.

## **Election results**

The 2110 Centre for Gender Advocacy's Board of Directors for the year 2012-2013 are:

Jayna Patel  
Wendy Heitmann  
Portia Larlee  
Caitlin O'Neill  
Lena Carla Palacios  
Emma Pietrangelo  
Hania Souleiman  
Keren Tang  
Morgan Pudwell  
Mike Lumsden